(c) the extent to which the gap between the supply and demand of edible oil is likely to be abridged; and

(d) its overall impact on the domestic prices of edible oil ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (d) The Govt. takes steps to augment the availability of oil by resorting to import after reviewing the availability position of the edible oils keeping in view the factors like demand, indigenous production, prospects of ensuing crops of oilseeds & prices etc. However, disclosure of quantity of oil required to be imported at any point of time is not considered in the interest of country, since such disclosures are likely to increase the prices of edibel oil in the international market. During the current financial year, a quantity of 42,000 tonns of palmolein has so far been imported from malaysia. The estimated CIF Kandla price of RBD Palmolein is US $ 402.50/407.50 per tonne.

ESI Dues outstanding from Various Employees

348. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA :
SHRI GAYA SINGH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about Rs. 178.56 crore is outstanding from various employers as ESI dues ;

(b) if so, the details and reasons for the accumulation of such a huge amount as defaults ; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to recover these dues and also to reduce the accumulation of such dues in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on 31-3-1993, an amount of Rs. 178.56 crores was outstanding on account of ESI dues against various employers. The ESI dues have increased generally because of the Courts' stay on their recovery, liquidation/closure of establishments, sickness of establishments and delay in collection of the dues through District Collectors.

(c) The ESI Act was amended in 1989 and for expediting the recovery of the ESI dues, a provision was made to set up the Corporation's own revenue recovery machinery which has since started functioning w.e.f. 1-1-1992. The legal and penal provisions in the Act were also made more stringent.

सांसदों द्वारा मंत्रालय को लिख गए पत्र

349. **श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल :** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 1 अप्रैल, 1990 से 31 मार्च, 1993 की अवधि के दौरान सांसदों द्वारा मंत्रालय को कितने पत्र लिखे गये और उनका वर्ष-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) उनमें से कितने पत्रों की पावती भेजी गई;

(ग) कितने पत्रों के अन्तिम उत्तर भेजे गये; और

(घ) मंत्रालय द्वारा क्रमशः सकारात्मक और नकारात्मक उत्तर वाले भेजे गये अन्तिम पत्रों के पृथक पृथक आंकड़े क्या हैं ?

श्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० ए० संगमा) : (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है तथा सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी ।

राज्यों में बिजली की कटौती

350. **श्री राम नरेश यादव :** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) चालू वर्ष के दौरान बिजली की कटौती के कारण कितने कार्य घन्टे नष्ट हुए हैं; और

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि बिजली की कटौती से कई लघु और बड़े उद्योग प्रभावित हुए हैं और इनमें से ऐसे कितने उद्योग हैं जो बन्द कर दिये गये हैं ?

श्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० ए० संगमा) : (क) और (ख) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है व सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी ।

Pension Scheme for Working Journalists

351. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating a monthly pension scheme for working journalists ; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has since decided to introduce a Pension Scheme for the EPF subscribers including working journalists.

(b) The proposed Pension Scheme provides for payment of monthly pension in the contingencies of retirement, super-annuation, permanent total disablement, death etc. The amount of monthly pension will depend upon the pensionable service and pensionable salary of the member. Minimum 10 years membership of the fund will be required for entitlement to pension.

352. [*Transferred to 14th December, 1993*].

National Wage Policy for Labour

353. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to evolve a national wage policy to secure a fair deal for labour ;

(b) whether Government are aware that the absence of such a policy is the root cause for industrial unrest and low productivity ; and

(c) whether Government would consider it expedient to constitute regional wage boards to arrest inter-state migration of labour due to disparity in minimum wages ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) The insue relating to formulation of a National Wage Policy has been considered by various fora in the past. A Group of State Labour Ministers in September. 1985 decided that it might not be feasible to frame a National Wage policy at the present stage. This subject was also considered by the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) held in November. 1985. The ILC expressed the view that "till such time a national wage is feasible it would be desirable to have regional minimum wage in regard to which the Central Government may lay down the guidelines. The minimum wages should be revised at regular periodicity and should be linked with rise in cost of living". Accordingly, the Government have issued guidelines on Regional Minimum Wages in July, 1987 to all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The State Governments/U.T. Administrations were also requested to provide for variable Dearness Allowance linked to consumer price index, as a part of minimum wages, to be revised every six months. As a sequel to the recommendation of the I.L.C. 1985, the Government framed guidelines on Regional Minimum Wages and the country was accordingly divided into six regions. The Conference of the Regional Labour Ministers of five regions, namely, Eastern Region, North-Eastern Region. Southern Region, Northern Region and Western Region, have already taken place to consider the regional issues relating to wages.

Visit of German Parliamentary Delegation to India

354. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that a delegation of influential German Parliamentarians